

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
POLLUTION REPORT**

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



203337

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003
From: Bradley P Benning, On-Scene Coordinator

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Subject: Final POLREP
ARCO Research Lab
400 East 147th Street, Harvey, IL

POI REP No.:	5	Site #:	B53D
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	83
Start Date:	6/30/2003	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	6/30/2003	Response Type:	IC
Completion Date:	10/17/2003	NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:	ILN000508307	Incident Category:	Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:	ILP200001944	Contract #	68-S5-98-02

Site Description

1. Site location

The ARCO Research Lab Site is located at 400 East 147th Street in Harvey, Cook County, Illinois. The western boundary of the site parallels the Illinois Central Railroad or Metra Electric commuter rail line, the northern boundary is 147th Street, the eastern boundary of the site is adjacent to Field Elementary School, and the southern boundary of the site is adjacent to other industrial facilities. The nearest residential areas are approximately 500 feet from the site and the nearest body of water is the Calumet River, approximately 2,400 feet east of the site.

2. Description of threat

Samples were collected of suspected asbestos-containing material from the main building and surrounding buildings during a U.S. EPA site investigation in April 2002. Samples were collected from pipe insulation, ceiling tile paper, floor tile, and duct insulation. Samples

indicated the presence of asbestos (25-30%) in these materials, with an estimated 135,000 square feet of ACM. It was observed that 50% of the ACM was damaged, loose, or had fallen to the ground and mixed with other building debris. Several containers, with their contents unknown, were observed throughout the property and in several buildings. Access to the property and building is unrestricted, allowing for future vandalism and potential for fire. A day-care facility and elementary school are directly east of the facility posing a potential direct contact threat to children.

3 Site background

The Site is the former location of the ARCO Chemical Research facility, comprising numerous buildings on 30 acres in Harvey, Illinois. The site was acquired by BP Amoco in the 1980s and later closed around 1990. A developer attempted to lease out the various buildings but only attracted a few tenants. The City of Harvey acquired the property in the mid 1990s due to delinquent taxes. The site includes numerous buildings including research/offices, power plant, and empty above-ground tank farm, and utility tunnels with pipes containing ACM. One company manufactured lignosulfate, an agricultural food additive, and dust suppressant. The company left a significant amount of product and waste at the site.

The site is currently vacant with extensive vandalism and unsecured entrances. Extensive damage is visible to most of the windows, as well as numerous fires in several rooms and hallways. All recyclable materials had been removed from the buildings leaving insulation scattered throughout. There are numerous piles of debris throughout the site, with some containing drums of unknown contents.

1.4 State and local actions to date

The Illinois EPA performed an inspection of the facility to determine if an action was required. The Illinois EPA recommended to the Illinois Attorney General that remedial action was required at the site. The Attorney General referred the site to the U.S. EPA.

Current Activities

1. Response activities to date (9-15-03 to 9-23-03)

ERRS contractor removed to the site to initiate disposal of waste materials.

Non-hazardous solids located in and around building H are being loaded into roll-off boxes for disposal, currently six roll-offs have been removed to date.

Approximately 1000 gallons of oil-free liquid from an abandoned tanker was removed 9-16-03.

The bulk asbestos debris is currently in a roll-off awaiting disposal. A small volume of loose ACM was removed from rooms in building H and the pipe chase and included in this roll-off.

The gray non-hazardous solids are being repackaged into new drums for disposal.

The cubic yard boxes containing bags of a non-hazardous white powder were shipped on 9/24/03.

Activities from (9/23/03 to 10/17/03)

- Completed disposal of non-regulated solids in the area of building H, totaling some 122 tons.
- The 20 yd roll-off of asbestos debris was transported for disposal.
- The intact asbestos pipe wrap located in the pipe chase was sealed with visqueen.
- Completed board-up of building A, primarily the front and west entrances and several windows
- Disposal completed of remaining containers, cylinders, empty drums and trash.
- Demobe all personnel and equipment.

Planned Removal Actions

No additional removal activities are planned at this time

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The initial action was to include removal of loose ACM throughout building A and H which was inter-mingled with a substantial amount of debris, followed by abatement of the remaining ACM by the site developer. When the development fell through the planned action at the site was placed on hold. Several months later additional dumping of ACM at the site prompted the Agency to initiate action to remove loose ACM that was outside of all containers, drums and cylinders, and the residual waste materials from the abandoned feed additive company. The goals were achieved, along with providing additional security through fencing the north side of the property and repairing board-up in building A.

Next Steps

Investigate any possible cost recovery options.

Key Issues

Work was delayed for approximately one week due to a haulers strike, which prevented disposal activity

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
FRS Cleanup Contractor	\$250,000.00	\$199,000.00	\$51,000.00	20.40%
RSL STAR1	\$9,450.00	\$9,450.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$259,450.00	\$208,450.00	\$51,000.00	19.66%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery

Disposition of Wastes

Wastes	22	10/2/03	Acetech, Aurora, IL
Asbestos Debris	20 yds	09/25/03	Republic Services/ Three Oaks, MI
Flamm. Liq.	17 drums	09/23/03	PCI/F, Chicago, IN IL8634945
Flamm. Liq. Corr	2 drums	09/30/03	US Liquids / Detroit MI MI916
Non haz. sludge	41 drum.	09/30/03	"
Corrosive Liq.	1000 gal.	09/16/03	Michigan Disposal Belleville, MI

MI 9349855

Haz. Solids	11 drums	09/30/03	US Liquids
		Detroit, MI	
		MI 9161236	
Corr. Liq.	2 drums	"	"
Corr. Liq.	5 drums	"	"
Sodium Hydroxide	5 drums	"	"
Corr. Liq. Cr	12 drums	09/30/03	US Liquids
		Detroit, MI	
		MI 9161252	
Flamm. Corr	2 drums	"	"
Non-haz sludge	9 drums	"	"
Non-regulated Solids	122 tons	09/13/03	Newton County
	to	Landfill	
	09/29/03	Brook, IN	

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